

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 02434 221613Z  
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 DODE-00 L-03 AID-05 CIAE-00  
INR-10 NSAE-00 /034 W  
-----075077 230308Z /66  
R 221603Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2849

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 02434

E.O. 11652: ADS - DECLASSIFY UPON COMPLETION OF  
NEGOTIATIONS  
TAGS: MARR, SWEL, TD  
SUBJECT: MAC DISASTER RELIEF AIRFIELD SUITABILITY SURVEY

REF: A) STATE 211516; B) 77 STATE 294058  
C) STATE 069205; D) 77 PORT OF SPAIN 3761

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF EMBASSY'S MARCH 20 NOTE TO  
GOTT:

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE EMBASSY (COMPLIMENTARY OPENING) RE-  
QUESTS THE PERMISSION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD AND  
TOBAGO FOR A SURVEY TEAM OF THE MILITARY AIRLIFT COMMAND  
(MAC) TO CONDUCT A SUITABILITY SURVEY AT PIARCO INTER-  
NATIONAL AIRPORT. IN RESPONDING TO REQUESTS FROM FOREIGN  
GOVERNMENTS FOR HUMANITARIAN AND EMERGENCY DISASTER RE-  
LIEF, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT RELIES ON MAC FOR AIR-  
LIFT SUPPORT. TO PLAN PROPERLY FOR SUCH OPERATIONS, MAC  
REQUIRES SPECIFIC DATA ABOUT AIRFIELDS WHICH MIGHT NEED TO  
BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE, WITH PERMISSION, OF COURSE, OF  
THE COUNTRIES IN WHICH SUCH AIRFIELDS ARE LOCATED. THESE  
DATA ARE OBTAINED THROUGH ON-THE-SPOT AIRFIELD SURVEYS,  
SINCE SOME TYPES OF AIRCRAFT SUCH AS THE C-5, AND C-141,  
WHICH MIGHT BE USED IN EMERGENCY DISASTER RELIEF OPERA-  
TIONS, HAVE TAXI, PARKING, OBSTRUCTION CLEARANCE, AND  
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OTHER REQUIREMENTS AND CHARACTERISTICS WHICH ARE NOT COM-  
MON TO COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT.

3. IF THE GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AGREES, A  
THREE-PERSON SURVEY TEAM, ALL OF WHOM WOULD BE U.S. CITI-  
ZENS, WILL CARRY OUT THE SURVEY AT PIARCO, IN ABOUT ONE  
DAY. THE COOPERATION AND, IF DESIRED, THE PARTICIPATION

IN THE SURVEY OF OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, SUCH AS THE AIRPORT MANAGER, WEATHER FORECASTERS, AND SAFETY PERSONNEL, ARE INVITED. THE DATA OBTAINED FROM THE SURVEY WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, BUT WOULD NOT BE RELEASED TO ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT WITHOUT THE EXPRESS PERMISSION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. IF THE GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO APPROVES THE FOREGOING PROPOSAL, DETAILS REGARDING THE SURVEY TEAM'S PERSONNEL AND ITINERARY WILL BE PROVIDED. (COMPLIMENTARY CLOSING.) END TEXT.

4. A SUBSEQUENT NOTE TO GOTT HAS INCLUDED REMAINING INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REF B PARA 1. THE EMBASSY ALSO HAS REQUESTED GOTT TO PROVIDE ANY SPECIFIC QUESTIONS IT MAY HAVE ABOUT THE SURVEY.

5. REF C PROVIDES ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT PROPOSED MAC SURVEY, BUT WE HAVE NOT RPT NOT PASSED ON THAT INFORMATION BECAUSE OF TELEGRAM'S CLASSIFICATION. PLEASE INDICATE WHAT INFORMATION, IF ANY, FROM REF C MAY BE GIVEN TO GOTT.

6. WE SEE TWO POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS FOR GOTT STALLING ON OUR REQUEST FOR MAC SURVEY. FIRST, AS POINTED OUT IN REF D, GOTT IS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE ABOUT PIARCO AIRPORT, AND SUBSEQUENT LENGTHY PILOTS'STRIKE, PRIVATE COMPLAINTS BY CONFIDENTIAL

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IFALPA ABOUT NAVIGATIONAL AIDS AT PIARCO, CRITICISM OF AIRPORT BY PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION, ETC., NO DOUBT HAVE MADE GOTT CAUTIOUS ABOUT SHOWING OFF ANY MORE OF ITS DIRTY LINEN THAN NECESSARY TO "UNINVITED FOREIGNERS." THUS GOTT REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MAY BE AN ATTEMPT TO PUT THE WHOLE BUSINESS OFF IN THE HOPES THAT WE WILL LET MATTER DROP. SECOND, GOTT MAY GENUINELY BELIEVE IT DOES NOT HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION ON MAC SURVEY TO COME TO INTELLIGENT DECISION BASED ON ITS OWN INTERESTS. IN EITHER CASE, WE BELIEVE THAT APPROVAL FOR SURVEY IS UNLIKELY TO BE FORTHCOMING WITHOUT FULLER INFORMATION THAN WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE THUS FAR.

7. COMMENT. WHILE WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS GOTT FOR POSITIVE RESPONSE ON MAC SURVEY PROPOSAL, FOR REASONS MENTIONED ABOVE PLUS GOTT'S GENERAL BUREAUCRATIC SLUGGISHNESS IT MAY BE SOME TIME BEFORE ANY DECISION IS MADE. IF IT APPEARS THAT GOTT'S HESITANCE TO APPROVE SURVEY IS BASED ON SECOND ALTERNATIVE IN PARA 6 ABOVE AND WE HERE ARE NOT ABLE TO SATISFY GOTT REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF SENDING MAC REP TO TRINIDAD TO DISCUSS PROPOSED SURVEY WITH GOTT

OFFICIALS, A POSSIBILITY WHICH WE HAVE NOT RPT NOT RAISED  
WITH GOTT. O'MAHONY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** AS IFY UPON COMPLETION OF  
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**TAGS:** MARR, SWEL, TD, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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